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NOTICE OF REASONS FOR REJECTION

Patent Application No.: 2001-055804
Drafting Date: March 30, 2004
JPO Examiner: Naozumi IWAMA 9287 5L00
Attorney for Applicant: Yukio MARUYAMA
Applied Provision: Article 29, Paragraph 2

The present application should be refused for the reason mentioned below. If the applicant has any argument against the reason, such argument should be submitted within 60 days from the date on which this notification was mailed.

Reasons

A.

The claimed inventions should not be granted a patent under the provision of Patent Law Article 29, Paragraph 2 because the invention according to claims mentioned below could be invented easily by a person having the general knowledge in the field of the invention before the application based on the invention disclosed in the following distributed publication or made available to the public via an electric communication lines in Japan and foreign countries before the filing of the application.

NOTES (See Cited Documents regarding cited document etc.)

Regarding claims 1 to 16

Cited documents 1,2

Cited document 1 discloses a service adjustment method and a service adjustment apparatus mentioned below, which are used for providing a service and an advertisement effectively (Specifically, see the second embodiment after paragraph [0035]).

1. A server terminal consisting of a service DB, a personal

- information DB and a service adjustment section, etc.
2. An information terminal serving as home appliances like a refrigerator etc. which notifies the server terminal of stock status etc., by using a bar code, etc.
 3. A user terminal
 4. The service adjustment section adjusts information of which the user is notified on the basis of the users stock information and bargain foodstuffs on the day of providing service ([0042]).

Although the information terminal (home appliance) and the user terminal are independent from each other as described in cited document 1, it is well-known to add a function corresponding to the user terminal to the information terminal (home appliance), as described in claim 2.

Returning an amount of money corresponding to electric power rates consumed by a home appliance to the user of the home appliance is an artificial agreement and decided properly by the skilled in the art by design.

Therefore, on the basis of cited references 1 and 2, the invention according to claims 1-16 is deemed to be made easily by the skilled in the art.

Cited Documents etc.

1. JP Application Publication No. 2001-014247
2. JP Application Publication No. 2000-242705

B.

In the present application, the description of claims does not comply with the requirement under the Patent Law, Article 36, paragraph 6, section 2.

NOTES

Regarding claims 6-10

The subject to perform each step constructing the method is not clear (it is not clear whether a human or each device performs automatically the steps).

Regarding claims 15 and 16

Although these claims describe "Implementing a function described in any one of claims 1 to 14", "a function described in any one of claims 1 to 14" is not specified.

Although these claims describe "a computer program line", its technical meaning is not clear. Thus, regarding claim 15, its invention category is not clear.

Base on the foregoing, the invention according to claims 6-10, 15 and 16 is not clear.

C.

The invention according to claims mentioned below does not comply with the requirement under the Patent Law, Article 29, paragraph 1, the body in the points mentioned below.

NOTES

Regarding claims 6-10

Although claim 6 describes "placing the home appliance where it will be used by a user", the description is obviously an act by a human and is deemed to correspond to an artificial agreement. Therefore, claims 6 described as a method and dependent claims 7-10 are deemed to correspond to an artificial agreement as a whole.

Regarding claim 6

Although claim 6 describes "information received from the server system for communicating data with the home appliance ... providing advertising information or sales promotion information according to the lifestyle information for the home appliance", in the description, information processing by a software is not concretely implemented by using hardware resources. Therefore, as a whole claim 6, information processing by a software is not concretely implemented by using hardware resources, and it is not "the creation of technical idea by which a law of nature is utilized".

Notice of reasons for rejection is notified when reasons for rejection is newly found.

Records of Prior Art Document Search Result

· Search Fields: IPC Version 7, G06F17/60

· Documents of Prior Arts

1. JP Application Publication No. 2000-274923
2. JP Application Publication No. 2000-275612

The records of the prior art document search results are not included in the reasons for refusal.

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